



OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM UPDATE

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs

April 7, 2003
0900 hrs.

Situational Update

- V Corps continues attacking enemy forces in its march towards central Iraq.
- The 3rd Infantry Division conducted aggressive offensive operations to secure the cities en route to central Baghdad. The 1st Brigade Combat Team seized a palace believed to be a Special Republican Guard Headquarters, while the 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducted a reconnaissance that led to enemy surrender. The three Brigades combined secured key terrain, which led to the destruction of 30 military vehicles, 30 technical vehicles, three T72 tanks, and three armored personnel carriers.
- The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continues to isolate the city of An Najaf from enemy forces, allowing friendly forces to conduct stability and support operations. The division's fire power destroyed five mortars, two trucks, two weapons caches, and a host of other enemy combat systems.
- The 82nd Airborne Division concentrated their efforts on conducting humanitarian assistance. The soldiers distributed 1200 meals, and worked to restore water and electricity in the city of As Samawah, making it a safer and more secure environment.
- Central Command now has reliable information that Iraqi military elements in the Baghdad area are using mosques and hospitals as bases to conduct military operations. These locations include the 'Mother of All Battles Mosque' in Northwest Baghdad, and the Saddam Hospital, which remain on the Coalition's no-strike list. As the Iraqi regime continues to jeopardize Iraq's treasures, the Coalition will continue its efforts to protect innocent Iraqi civilians and sensitive sites from harm.

Important Transcripts

Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz And Gen. Pace - NBC
"Meet The Press": 4/6/03

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2003/t04062003_tdod0406mtp.html

Key Points

"Either [Saddam] is dead, or he is alive and the world's worst general."

- Gen. Peter Pace, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
ABC News "This Week", 4/6/03

Coalition Tightens Control Over Baghdad

- US air supremacy over Baghdad continues as US planes fly around-the-clock missions designed to support the U.S. ground invasion of the capital city.
- 3rd Infantry Division forces are approaching Baghdad from the southwest; 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces are coming from the southeast.
- A night-time travel ban by Iraqi authorities of civilians and vehicles in and out of Baghdad will not stop the US military from accomplishing the mission.
- Seven thousand US troops are positioned at the Baghdad International Airport, establishing a base of operations and repairing the airport's infrastructure.
- 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines seized one of Saddam's palaces south of Baghdad.

Today in DoD

A press briefing is scheduled for today. Time and participants TBD

There will be a briefing on the Geneva Convention and Enemy Prisoners of War at 10:00 A.M. EDT

Press briefings may be viewed on Senate Channel 27 or House Channel 24.

Tomorrow's Member's Brief will include a report on British participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The bios of the 2 British participants are attached.

For Press Secretary or MLA Inquiries on Current Operations:

Call Legislative Affairs (703) 697-6210

Or Refer To:

www.defenselink.mil/la or www.Defendamerica.mil

To be added to this electronic mailing list, e-mail claud.chafin@osd.mil